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MEASURES FOR THE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICE
TO THE PEOPLE AND THE PROTECTION OF THE HEALTH OF THE
POPULATION OF THE USSR

- USSR -

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MEASURES FOR THE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICE
TO THE PEOPLE AND THE PROTECTION OF THE HEALTH OF THE
POPULATION OF THE USSR

Following is the translation of an article entitled
"O Merakh po Dal'neyshemy Uluchsheniyu Meditsinskogo
Obsluzhivaniya i Okhrany Zdorov'ya Naseleniya SSSR"
(English version above), in Vestnik Dermatologii i Vene-
rologii (Herald of Dermatology and Venereology), Vol.
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One of the most typical characteristics of the Soviet struc-
ture is the ever-growing effort of the state in behalf of the
people, an example of which is the recent resolution of the CC CPSU
and the Council of Ministers USSR on "Measures for the further
improvement of the medical service to the people and the protec-
tion of the health of the population of the USSR".

Additional expenditures to finance the measures being effect-
uated to improve the medical service to the people will be made by
means of funds obtained from the state budget in connection with
the reduction of expenditures for military purposes in accordance
with the Law concerning the new and considerable diminution in

the Armed Services of the USSR adopted at the Fourth Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR.

In the resolution of the CC CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR it is noted that, as a result of the steadily rising material and cultural level of the life of the people, the creation of an extensive network of medical institutions, the provision to the populace of free, qualified, medical aid, the successful development of medical science, and the wide practice of physical culture, an increase has been achieved in the state of health of the people of the Soviet Union. During the years of the Soviet power, there has been a great reduction in the incidence of disease among the populace, and the total mortality rate has decreased by more than four fold, while the infant mortality rate has dropped by almost seven fold. The average duration of life of the Soviet citizen has increased more than twice. In this country we have also eliminated such serious infectious diseases as cholera, plague, smallpox, and typhus. At the present time, malaria has been eliminated almost entirely, and the incidence of diphtheria has been reduced markedly. The number of hospital beds during the postwar years has increased by two fold. A large number of sanatoria and rest homes have been built and put into service, in which more than five million persons rest and are treated each year. There has been an improvement in the quality of therapeutic and prophylactic ser-

vice to the people. The production of medicinals and of items of medical technology has increased by more than three fold in the preceding seven years. Our country has surpassed the entire world in providing doctors for the people. A widespread network of scientific research and medical institutes has been developed, and the guiding center of the medical sciences is the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR. In 273 scientific research institutes and in 79 post-graduate medical institutes of this country, more than 30,000 scientific workers are engaged in scientific pursuits.

At the same time, the CC CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR have pointed out that, despite the present achievements in the area of health, the medical service still does not satisfy the ever-growing needs of the populace, especially in the regions of new industrial development, in virgin agricultural territories, in the Far North, and in the mountain regions. Workers are inadequately provided with ambulatory out-patient service. There are serious shortcomings in the organization of hospital help, especially in hospitals with a small number of beds. Many therapeutic institutions are inadequately supplied with modern medical equipment and special apparatus. The construction of new medical institutes is proceeding too slowly.

The Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, the scientific research and medical institutes of the Ministry of Health USSR, and the ministries of health of the union republics are not carrying out

active enough . . . scientific studies of the causes of, and of possible effective prophylactic measures and therapeutic substances for, mass diseases (influenza, pharyngitis, infectious diseases of children, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, etc.).

The most recent advances in biology, physics, chemistry and radiology are being introduced much too slowly into practice in the work of the medical institutes in a number of instances. Incomplete advantage is being taken of advances in modern science for the production of new therapeutic preparations, medicinals, and medical technological items, and they are being put into effective practice slowly.

Certain Party, soviet, and trade union organs are giving too little attention to the problems of the medical service to the people, to the construction of therapeutic institutions, and to the organization of mass movements of the people in the direction of health culture. They control and supervise very poorly the fulfillment by economic organizations of measures for improving sanitary conditions of population sites and industrial establishments.

The CC CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR delineated a number of measures directed at improving the medical service to the people, increasing the tempo and raising the quality of construction of therapeutic and prophylactic institutions and plants for medical industry, increasing the production of medications

and medical items and products, raising the role of the scientific research institutes and of the departments of medical post-graduate institutes in the search for new and effective medications and methods of controlling the incidence of disease and for further improving the quality of sanitation measures at population sites.

The CC CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR proposed tasks to the union republics and the ministrées and departments of the USSR with respect to increasing the number of hospital beds from 1,532,600 in 1958 to 2,148,600 in 1965.

The CC CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR enjoined the CC of party organs, the councils of ministers of the union republics, and the oblast and kray executive committees, to plan and develop measures to extend the network of medical institutions, and also to ensure qualified medical care to the people and to improve the level of medical service, keeping in mind the following:

the provision of therapeutic and prophylactic institutions with modern medical equipment, apparatus, and instruments, while expanding the laboratories and the X-ray, physiotherapeutic, therapeutic and other departments;

the multiplication of apothecaries and the improvement of distribution to the people of medications and items necessary to hygiene and sanitation;

the development and effectuation in 1960 of measures for

improving the therapeutic and prophylactic service to women and school children, with improvement in the conditions of work for women and a considerable extension of the network of women's and children's consultation services and pre-school institutions;

the provision of automotive transport for medical institutions;

the fulfillment of measures to improve the training of medical cadres.

The CC CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR endorsed broad measures for the intensification of production of medical products, and for the expansion of research in and the creation of new therapeutic substances, medical instruments, and apparatus. The volume of production of medications, items of medical technology and other medical products/increase in 1965 by 5.5 fold as compared with 1958.

The resolution envisioned an increase in the production of penicillin of 4.8 times, of streptomycin 5.5 times, of chloramphenicol seven times, and of antibiotics of the tetracycline series 13 times.

The volume of capital investments in the development of medical industry will increase four-fold during the ensuing seven year period as compared with the preceding seven-year period.

Together with all the medical workers of our country, significant advances have been made by our dermatologists and venereal-

ogists.

The incidence of venereal diseases in the USSR is considerably lower than in the majority of countries of the West. In the USSR soft chancre and the "fourth venereal disease" [?] have been eliminated for a long time, and early congenital syphilis has been eliminated for all practical purposes. In a number of the union republics only isolated cases of the infectious forms of syphilis have been reported. There is a steady decline in the incidence of favus.

However, it should be noted that the rate of decline in the incidence of gonorrhea is unsatisfactory. There is also an insufficiently rapid decline in the incidence of trichophytoses and microsporoses.

In a number of oblasts and republics there is still a high level of pyoderma infections; the incidence of skin diseases, including those of children, is being reduced too slowly.

Advances in the control of venereal and skin diseases could be much more rapid if there had not been in recent years widespread acceptance among several health organ officials of the view that venereal diseases have been eliminated in the USSR for all time and that there is no danger of their recurrence. This has led not only to delay in the growth of the dermatological and venereological network but even to a reduction of it in recent years. A number of institutes and dispensaries

were discontinued, there was a reduction in the assignment of specialists and even in the graduation of them from the institutes of medical education, and a diminution in the extent of dermatological and venereological aid to the populace. In a number of oblasts there was a slacking off of prophylactic and sanitary education work. The production of organizational and methodological materials on dermatology and venereology was curtailed, as was that of popular scientific brochures and pamphlets. Scientific and therapeutic institutions are still inadequately supplied with apparatus, chemicals, and new medications.

We have all the necessary conditions for the successful control of venereal and skin diseases. The health and dermatology and venereology institutes have been confronted with the task of eliminating the infectious forms of syphilis and favus, and of markedly reducing the incidence of other venereal and skin diseases. These tasks are very urgent. They must be solved in each republic, oblast, and kray individually, at different times, with account being taken of the dynamics of morbidity and the state of the medical network and of the cadres.

It should be kept in mind that the control of the infectious forms of syphilis and favus should not be separated from the effort to reduce the incidence of venereal and fungus diseases in general.

Of prime importance is the preservation of the existing net-

work of out-patient and hospital dermatological and venereological institutions (including the scientific research institutes). The number of such institutions should be increased in various republics and oblasts (including the inter-regional dispensaries). The reorganization of the city dispensaries into departments of hospitals is not expedient.

It is necessary to supply the dermatological and venereological institutes with cadres of specialists, in order that, in the coming two to three years, all vacant posts will be filled which are currently held by substitutes (in the BSSR, for instance, about 50 percent) who do not give adequate attention to problems of dermatology and venereology.

Work should be intensified to increase the qualifications of dermatologists and venereologists, obstetricians and gynecologists, pediatricians, laboratory workers, and workers in the rural medical and obstetrical services, with particular attention given to problems of the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of venereal and skin diseases. For this purpose it is necessary to introduce into the program of advanced training for physicians in the regional and sectional hospitals, regardless of their specialty, instruction in current problems in dermatology and venereology.

The small city serological laboratories must be combined into large laboratories, well equipped, and capable of carrying out the full range of serologic tests.

Modern equipment should be placed in laboratories and physio-therapeutic and X-ray departments (especially Bucky apparatus), and apparatus and chemical reagents must be supplied. The responsibility of the chief obstetricians and gynecologists should be increased in the matter of diagnosing gonorrhea in women suffering with chronic inflammatory diseases of the reproductive organs. Complete serologic tests should be done on all pregnant women.

Mycology departments should be organized in all oblast and city dermatology and venereology dispensaries, with particular attention given to the control of fungus diseases in the rural areas.

It is essential to increase the prophylactic work of sanitation and epidemiological stations in the control of pyoderma in industrial plants and to intensify their anti-epidemic efforts in foci of fungus infection.

The disinfection institutes must develop simple methods of disinfection which are within the competence of which are accessible to rural communities.

A fundamental task of dermatologists and venereologists is improvement in the quality of prophylactic and therapeutic work.

It is necessary to improve dispensary methods of caring for patients with venereal diseases, to intensify work on the detection of infection in, and the referral for treatment of, sources

of infection and members of families of individuals suffering with venereal or infectious skin diseases, to increase the struggle against indisposed sources of infection who are reluctant to submit to treatment, referring them, if necessary, to the respective social organizations.

There should be a marked increase in the quality of mass sanitary education work and an increased use of memory devices, of organizational and methodological materials, pamphlets, films, popular scientific brochures, and so forth on the prophylaxis of venereal and infectious skin diseases.

Extensive publication and exchange should be effected of the experience gained from work of therapeutic ^{the} and prophylactic institutions in the control of skin and venereal diseases, for which purpose oblast and inter-oblast conferences, symposiums, and so forth should be held frequently on problems of dermatology and venereology with the participation of medical personnel of mixed specialties, workers of the councils of people's economy and social workers.

The patriotic initiative of the Rostov physicians received wide acclaim among dermatologists and venereologists of this country. In this connection, the need arises for the elimination of private practice among dermatologists and venereologists, which impedes the work of controlling venereal diseases.

An important task, which has insufficiently engaged the at-

tion of dermatologists is that of controlling the epidermophytoses. Dispensary methods are not being used in the treatment of these diseases. It is essential to create new and effective baths and showers with filter systems, and to work out new organization forms for the prophylaxis and treatment of such patients.

In the matter of controlling leprosy, great importance attaches to the development and introduction into practice of effective measures of immunoprophylaxis and medicinal prophylaxis, the use of the dispensary method in the therapeutic and prophylactic aid to such patients, and the active participation of dermatologists and venerologists in the control of leprosy.

In the area of dermatology, much attention must be given to the study of the morphology and physiology of the skin, to the study of injuries to the skin as the result of exposure to ionizing radiation, to the problem of burns and of hemato-dermia, to the pathology of skin in the young and the elderly, and to malignant neoplasms of the skin. Special attention must be given to studies related to the development of effective measures for reducing the incidence of suppurative and occupational diseases of the skin which lead to loss of work.

In the area of prophylactic and therapeutic care of patients with skin diseases, a number of existing defects in the program should be corrected. As a result of the underestimation by a number of health organs of the importance of controlling skin

diseases, dermatological and venerological institutions are not keeping adequate records of skin patients, are not studying the course of skin disease morbidity among the populace and in industrial plants, which hinders the proper planning of necessary measures in oblasts and rayons.

It is necessary to work out a unified, single plan and method of study of the profile of skin diseases and to add supplements to forms No. 61-a and 6 for the purpose of listing skin diseases. Keeping in mind that during recent years many new syndromes and clinical forms of skin diseases have been described, it behooves us to re-examine the classification of skin diseases.

One of the important tasks of the health organs is the timely hospitalization of patients with non-infectious skin diseases, especially children.

An important problem is to improve the supply of therapeutic institutions with the necessary medications for the treatment of skin diseases (sulfur, tars, antibiotics, steroid hormones, vitamins, etc.), greaseless bases for applications of the type of the solid and liquid polyethyleneglycols, physiotherapeutic equipment, and X-ray apparatus.

There should be a marked improvement in the quality of the therapeutic work. To improve the therapeutic service to patients with chronic dermatoses, a more extensive use of rest home treatment is essential. The number of patients with skin dis-

eases, including children, who are in need of rest home treatment considerably exceeds the existing number of sanatorium quarters, which presents a need for providing additional free beds in the specialized sanatoria. Wider use should be made of local rest homes for the treatment of patients with chronic dermatoses.

The experience of work in the dispensary care of patients with skin diseases which has accumulated in recent years in a number of cities (Moscow, Leningrad, etc.) has shown that the dispensary method of caring for patients with skin diseases is highly effective and should be extensively introduced into practice in the republic, oblast, and city dermatological and verealogical dispensaries.

It should be noted that the study of occupational dermatoses has not been given sufficient attention in recent years. Work on the pathogenesis, clinical course, and treatment of occupational dermatoses must be intensified and must be carried out primarily by institutes and departments located in the large industrial centers of the country. In the control of occupational dermatoses, dermatologists should actively participate in conjunction with industrial sanitation physicians, medical sanitation physicians, and physicians of the health centers, in studying working conditions

and in demonstrating the basic occupational factors which give rise to skin diseases.

The present state of cosmetology service still does not meet the needs of the populace. To carry out scientific research work

in the area of cosmetics, it is necessary to organize departments of medical cosmetics in the dermatology and venereology institutes. These departments must carry out organizational and methodological work and must train cadres of cosmetologists. In the oblast dermatology and venereology dispensaries, cosmetic care must be available. Medical control and supervision must be provided for the activity of the existing cosmetological departments, such control to be the responsibility of the dermatology institutes.

The resolution of the CC CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR emphasizes the need to create in medical institutions councils consisting of medical workers and representatives of the Party, trade union and economic organizations. The public social councils must play an important role both in improving the quality of therapeutic and prophylactic aid for patients with skin diseases and for those with venereal diseases, especially workers in industry and in agriculture.

The outstanding task of dermatologists and venereologists is to become actively involved in work to bring about the realization of the measures envisaged by the resolution of the Party and government.

FOR REASONS OF SPEED AND ECONOMY
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